

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to John Macy, April 2, 1903, with transcript

Helen Keller, drawer 25 HELEN KELLER. Copy of a letter-press copy of a letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mr. Macy, who later married Helen's teacher. April 2, 1903. Mr. John Albert Macy, 6 Everett Hall, Cambridge, Mass. Dear Mr. Macy:

I have read with the greatest interest, "The Story of My Life", by Helen Keller. The book is a most valuable contribution to our literature; it will be read by all with interest, and the material is so carefully and wisely arranged that it will undoubtedly exert a profound influence upon the education of the deaf. The world I think, is to be congratulated that Helen and Miss Sullivan have been able to secure an Editor who has compiled his material with such intelligence and judgment as you have done. Congratulations upon your success.

You have made a great find in Miss Sullivan's letters to Mrs. Hopkins. I do not understand why Miss Sullivan did not tell us of those letters at the time the Volta Bureau souvenirs were prepared, — they are of the greatest importance as giving a contemporaneous account of the earlier stages of Helen's education. They reveal the fact that had long been suspected, that Helen's remarkable achievements are as much due to the genius of her teacher, as to her own brilliant mind. You have done wisely to italicized sentences that show that you fully appreciate the important educational principles developed by her, and they also prove that Miss Sullivan was wrong when she gave us the impression that she acted without method in the instruction of Helen — groping her way along and acting on the spur of the moment. They show that she was guided all along by principles of the greatest importance in the education of the deaf — that she did have a method, and the results have shown that her method was a true one.

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These principles properly compiled can be carried out by any intelligent person in the education of other children.

In issuing a second edition of the work, I think it would be a good plan to bring together in an appendix, the passages you have italicized, with a few others, so as to present in concise form, the principles that underlay her instructions.

Yours very sincerely, ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.